

3 December 1981  
MSK-1029

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Seoul Bureau--November 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. South Korea's political parties and government agreed during the month to move to lift the country's midnight  
✓ to 4 a.m. curfew, which has been in effect since the Korean War. No date has actually been set yet, but it is expected to be lifted as of next spring. The lifting of the curfew will allow the bureau to reassess its overnight staffing in the Korean and Communications Units, which is necessitated largely by the impossibility of sending local employees home during the curfew.
2. Okinawa Cruising Monitor [ ] arrived on 27  
November to conduct a comprehensive cruising survey as a followup to his survey last winter, which was somewhat aborted by antenna problems. As a secondary task, Bernie will begin training the bureau's technician/watch officer  
[ ] in the rudiments of cruising and assess his  
potential to become a part-time cruising monitor for the  
bureau with additional training.

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B. Lateral Services

1. With agreement from Headquarters, the local ICA office is now passing the bureau's file on North and South Korea to the Research Institute of National Security Affairs of the ROK National Defense College. ICA is on normal distribution for the file, and they pass their copies along when they are finished reviewing them.
2. In response to a DIA Washington request based on a bureau  
✓ VSL, a copy of a 2-minute DPRK TV film clip on the launching of a 14,000-ton cargo ship was dubbed and passed to the Embassy DAO for forwarding to Washington. The DIA request message noted that the film clip would be of interest to several of their offices.

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C. Technical

A local contractor installed new transformers during the month on the bureau's four beverage antennas at Pyong-taek, problems with which had surfaced during [ ] STAT  
cruising survey early this year. While the new transformers have not had any pronounced effect on bureau coverage, they have made the antennas much less susceptible to problems and faults,

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. In response to bureau documentation seeking an improved grade structure for bureau employees, the State Department agreed to upgrade bureau monitorial positions from FSN-8 to FSN-9, with the two unit chiefs one grade higher than at present at FSN-10. This was also based on the extensive discussions that have been held between FBIS Headquarters and the State Department on the grading of monitorial positions worldwide. The bureau's assistant editor position was graded at FSN-7, though FBIS editorial positions worldwide remain to be discussed between FBIS and State. Promotion recommendations are being forwarded to Hqs for nine employees: four Korean monitors, four Chinese monitors and the bureau's assistant editor. State denied the bureau's request to establish shift supervisor positions in the monitorial units, leaving the bureau with a somewhat broader but still restricted and illogical career progression for its employees.
2. Teletypist [ ] was remarried on 19 November. His first wife had died of illness early this year. STAT
3. Chinese Unit Chief [ ] gave birth to her third child, STAT and first daughter, on 23 November.

B. Building and Grounds

A State Department team visited the Embassy during the month to survey possible sites for a new Embassy. An elaborate plan drawn up last year to build a new Embassy on the site of the present ICA building, with apartments on the top floors, and to expand housing on Embassy Compounds I and II, has been scrapped as impractical. It will be a number of years before ground is broken for any new building.

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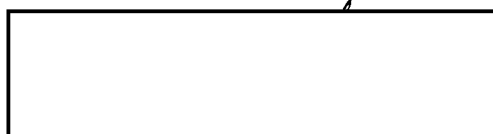
III. VISITS

A. Okinawa Bureau Chief Engineer [ ] arrived on 23 November for a periodic inspection as part of his regional engineering duties. He will depart on 3 December.

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B. Okinawa Bureau Cruising Monitor [ ] arrived on 27 November to conduct a comprehensive cruising survey, which will run for two weeks.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:  
Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief [ ]  
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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